

NEWS

Menlo may rap Saltworks plan

Two issues that could affect thousands of Menlo Park and Redwood City residents will be before the Menlo Park City Council tonight — whether the council should consider opposing the development of the salt ponds in Redwood City, a massive project that could add up to 25,000 new residents, and a discussion on limiting the size of lawns for new and remodeled properties.

Council members Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen say that the project would be too big, that it would bring too much traffic and congestion into the area and that the housing and commercial needs are better met by development near transit-oriented sites.

The deal

In late January, it was discovered that Cohen had considered offering housing

space on El Camino Real to Redwood City if it would agree not to build 8,000 to 12,000 residential units on the Cargill site.

The developer, Redwood City Saltworks, released a series of e-mails between Cohen, former Menlo Park council member Paul Collacchi and the political director of Save the Bay after a public information request from Saltworks.

Opposition

Tonight's discussion, the second by the council on this topic, could at least firm up the council's opposition to the project, since it appears a majority of the five members favor stopping it.

Council also will review a variety of possible requirements on water use and landscaping for new or renovated properties.

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